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COMMUNICATIONS

FROM THE STATES AND TERRITORIES.

[The New National Era does not hold itself responsible
for views expressed by correspondents. Well written and
interesting communications will be gladly received.]

Mississippi Politics.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 5, 1873.

DEAR SIR: As your columns are not
always teeming with "Personals" and
learned discussions on the relative (de-)
merits of certain factional leaders from this
portion of the State, I may presume sufficient
to contribute the following from eastern
Mississippi. We are at present on the eve
of the most exciting political contest which
has ever been waged within the "Old Bayou
State." One which for intensity of bitter-
ness, obstinacy of the factions, and import-
ance of its results, from the present aspect
of the political horizon, promises to be un-
paralleled in the history of this State. As is
usual in such contests, on the one side are
arrayed in solid phalanx the friends of human
progress, equal rights and political equality;
on the other are marshaled the yet formidable
hosts of Democracy, those abject de-
voted to the shrine of prejudice—malcon-
tents from the Republican ranks, whose
aim of ambition is political preferment; and
another class, who bat-like can neither be
designated as Republicans, Liberals, or Demo-
crats, but are more nearly allied to the
culture, for they hang on the skirts of the
party whose star is temporarily in the ascen-
dancy, now they are fluttering around in dis-
pair, predicting a dreadful future, uttering
wild and discordant yells of chagrin, not
knowing whether to light on Ames or Al-
corn.

On the 27th ult. the State convention met
at Jackson, and before the termination of
their labors nominated a ticket, which for
the political as well as moral strength, and
the personal worth and ability of each mem-
ber, can favorably compare with any of the
reconstructed States. In its nature it is
superlatively Republican, having been selected
regardless of race, color, or previous con-
dition, and with an eye single to personal
merit, political integrity, and official expe-
rience.

Yet the above-alluded to political vultures
are dipping their wings, and cawing out their
dismal howls in virtuous indignation, vio-
lently asserting that the colored men are
trying to monopolize all the offices, and pre-
dicting our speedy downfall. Let us briefly
review the facts in the premises. There are
seven State officers. We have only claimed
three, as a power, when we think that we
might have demanded five as a right, and our
white brothers would still have been repre-
sented in proportion to their numbers. There
are seventy-three counties in the State, of
which thirty-three are Democratic, with a
corresponding majority of 23,000 voters;
three doubtful and twenty-seven Republican,
containing a majority of 50,000, and we can
safely calculate upon three thousand whites
throughout the State, which will swell our
numbers to a majority of 30,000. Therefore,
if the malcontents, under the lead of Senator
Alcorn, should bolt and carry 20,000 with
them, we would still have a balance of
75,000 eligible voters in the State, while the
Democrats highest estimate is only 65,000.
You can easily perceive from the above
hastily compiled statistics that the white
element of the Republican party comprises
only one tenth, when they have a representa-
tion of four sevenths on the State ticket, and
have hitherto held six out of the seven State
offices; yet they charge us with trying to
break up the party.

If it will kill the party to recognize the
chief plank in the Philadelphia platform—
political equality—then I say that the
somer we imitate our brothers of Ohio, and
let the local elections go by the board, the
better it would be for all parties concerned.
I would ask our Republican friends if Massa-
chusetts, the birth-place of Sumner, has re-
cognized her colored citizens as impartially
as we have our white friends? Has New
York, in a single instance, recognized her
10,000 colored voters? Echo answers no;
though she has a Douglass in their midst.
Has the old Keystone State ever remembered
the debt of gratitude she owes to those faith-
ful sons of Ham with whose aid she achieved
the great victory of 1872. I might go on and
enumerate each of the Republican States,
and would receive the same answer in each
instance where the colored men are in the
minority.

The sheriffs and chancery clerk's offices
are the only ones in the counties that pay;
yet out of twenty-seven Republican counties
we have only six sheriffs and only one chan-
cery clerk. Still we are "negroizing" the
State. There is Lowndes county, with
4,500 colored and 1,500 white voters, who
have but one colored officer, a constable in
the county, exclusive of the representatives.
However, they have aroused from their
lethargic stupor, and are endeavoring to
shake off their political incubus of ambitious
adventurers, by electing as sheriff that firm
old veteran the Hon. Robert Gleed, who has
been appropriately called the "Toussaint"
of eastern Mississippi. We watch with inter-
est the culmination of the attempt. Missis-
sippians are commencing to properly inter-
pret the hitherto mythical sentence—polit-
ical equality—and are endeavoring to prac-
tically demonstrate its efficacy. The day is
not far distant when public patronage will be
equally distributed throughout Mississippi,
and "equality" no longer a shadowy feeling
phantom, ever present, yet never realized.
To this end I invite the aid of all who desire
peace and harmony in the Republican ranks,
and who are desirous of marching under its
banner, upon which shall be emblazoned in
glowing letters the magic words, "Liberty,
Equality, and Fraternity." DAISY.

From Alabama.

SELMA, ALA., August 27, 1873.

DEAR SIR: My letter to your inestimable
paper some time since accusing the officials
of the county of not sustaining a Re-
publican journal, has had its desired effect.
It has caused the Republicans to look
around and ascertain the cause, if possible,

why it is that we cannot be blessed with the
potency of a first-class journal. The last
session of the Legislature has been the im-
mediate cause of beggaring and engendering
an enmity among the Republicans that
will take Herculean efforts to get rid of.
All of this has originated over the issue of
Alex. White, in his great effort to destroy
the civil rights bill, which he did. That one
perfidious political act proves his moral ob-
liquity. Obliquity alone can obliterate the
reproach, and blast his name, or cast it in the
abyss of perdition. Through and by Alex.
White, we have the advocate of the civil
rights bill and anti-civil rights adherents be-
longing to the Republican party. Both fac-
tions are now struggling for the mastery.
Both purpose starting journals. The anti-
civil rights faction has a circular flying the
streets announcing the fact that they will
start a paper in a few days, calling it "The
National Republican." The advocates of the
civil rights of all nations and nationalities
claim that they will start their paper about
the middle of September, and it shall be
known by the name of the "Selma Ga-
zette," headed by an old correspondent of
the New York Times and St. Louis Democrat,
who styled himself "Sol." It will be re-
membered that "Sol" was in Alabama during
the double-barrel Legislature of last
winter, and wrote several able articles vindic-
ating the court-house wing, to eastern
journalists, and I believe he was representing
the Times at that time. Albeit, what has
brought such a dislike upon "Sol" by the
anti-civil rights clique, is the fact that while
he was in Montgomery he wrote several
pieces for the Watchman, vindicating the
course, some few of the Republicans had taken
in regard to the civil rights for all. "Sol"
at this time is undergoing the ordeal of all
kinds of slurs and imputations. But he is
standing it with that composure and im-
perturbability that few are capable of en-
joying.

I have no doubt but the "Gazette" will
make its advent about the latter part of
September, bearing aloft the principles, be-
nignity, and dignity of Republicanism, asking
the same and the one thing for all nations
of the earth.

I do not like to, and I must say it is with
reluctance, that I allude to any particu-
lar participant in the initiative step for
the origination of this paper. The one of
whom I am going to speak is known by the
name of Dr. Henry; he is once in times
that have passed and gone held the respect
and confidence of all the Republicans of this
county; in fact he was the first white man I
ever heard make a Republican speech. But
he has been rewarded time and again for his
Republicanism, and much fattening hath
made him mad.

The scurrility and demagoguism he
resorted to, to prevent the publication of
the "Gazette," would astonish his most
sanguine friends; and I would say, by way
of advice for the Doctor, that the time has
come and gone when the lash and compul-
sion ruled; argument and reason have taken
their place, and the sooner the Doctor
learns this the better for all concerned.
There has been a day of interregnum, am-
biguousness, and pusillanimity; but must
give way to the second sober thought of the
people. Thanks to God, that auspicious
day is dawning, and when the effulgence of
day shall have brightened upon all, and when
the good can be distinguished from the bad,
then we can call with the loudness of a can-
non for our deliverers to come to our deliv-
erance. But let us not be too hasty here in
the darkness of the night, as we have been
heretofore; this is the cause of our tardiness
in our political rights to-day; but rather let
us be a little more careful, watchful, and
wakeful in the future. Yes, be a little jeal-
ous of our rights, and keep those noble qual-
ities of citizenship always under circum-
spection, civility, benignity, fidelity, and activity
for a contingency. With these qualifications
we have naught to fear. It is becoming more
and more intelligible daily to me that it is
an inevitable fact that the colored man of
the South, he can receive that justice
belonging to him, must act for himself,
and prove to the chivalry, scoundrel, and
carpet-bagger, that we are not only capable
of self-government, but that we intend de-
monstrating the fact. We do not mean
any hostility by this assertion; but we do
mean most emphatically that the wrongs
which have been heaped upon us in the past
shall not be laid upon our shoulders in the
future. We mean that we must have redress
—politically and civilly. And I make the
bold assertion that these sentiments are
espoused by all true lovers of liberty.

Yours, &c., W. J. STEVENS.

The Chillicothe Convention.

An Inside View. (Limited.)

CINCINNATI, Sept. 5, 1873.

To the Editors of the New National Era and Citizen:
"Go and tell John Coleman that
the niggers are a race!"
was the burden of a famous song here about
the time of the Nat. Turner insurrection.
The Chillicothe Convention sent forth a
message to the John Colemans of the Re-
publican party, that once more "the niggers
are a race!"—rising to the dignity of self-
asserting manhood; rising to the condition
of freedom from the shackles of men and
party; rising to a realizing sense of the
grandeur of American citizenship, and them-
selves striking a blow for complete enfran-
chisement that is resounding and reaching
over the land until the petty lickspittles of
the coward's brigade begin to tremble for
the consequences of a movement they have
opposed.

Early last spring a number of colored men
in the State settled into a conviction that all
colored men were to be entirely ignored by
the representatives of the Republican party
in office so long as they continued to work
and vote for their nominee and wait patiently
for justice to be done them. Your correspond-
ent suggested the idea of a convention,
where they could utter a protest and organize
means to make it effective. This met the
approval of all concerned, and at once they
proceeded to work up an interest in the
matter.

THE LIBERAL CONVENTION

afforded us an opportunity to obtain half-free

arrangements to the central point of the
State for consultation, and accordingly ad-
vantage was taken of it to hold a conference
meeting at Columbus on the 30th July ultimo.
This was perhaps unfortunate, as it enabled
those who disagreed with our movement to
place us at the disadvantage of a miscon-
struction, and to create the impression that
we were bargaining with that party. Only
the personal reputation of those who were
prominent in it prevented this charge becom-
ing an open one, which was apparently a
reasonable one also, as their convention was
then in session.

Originally it was our intention to hold a
secret convention and make no demonstra-
tion until the disposition and intentions of
the party had been clearly and positively
defined, but when we were reminded that
this was the eve of an important election,
and now, if ever, the opportunity was afforded
of our determination, an open meeting was
agreed upon, to be called at Chillicothe on
the 22d of August ultimo. Here again we
had to contend with difficulties.

THE GRAND LODGE OF OHIO

(colored) held its sessions there on the 20th
and 21st of August, and a general nervous-
ness agitated that body, lest it should be
compromised with politics. We regretted
this, as it occasioned the personal opposition
of some of the leaders of that organization.
However, it was too late for us to turn back.
The Car of Progress was advancing upon
the equal rights' road, macadamizing and lev-
eling the distinction of American citizenship,
and obstacles must either get out of the way
or be crushed.

Again: that city is the home of "Old Billy
Allen," the Democratic candidate for the
Governatorial chair. This fact gave rise to
vague suspicions and mysterious whispers
regarding our purposes, and opened the way
for certain thoroughly unscrupulous demo-
gogues and political tricksters, to whom our
object had been thoroughly explained, and
who had privately professed sympathy with
the undertaking, only to ally our watchful-
ness that they might more successfully mis-
represent us and arouse a bitter feeling of
hostility because we were trying to lead the
colored voters of Ohio into the Democratic
ranks without other than personal provoca-
tion as disappointed office-seekers in the
party." A distinguished mail-agent-at-large,
and self-appointed supervisor of Gen. Grant's
personal reputation among the colored
people of Ohio in general, and Hamilton
county in particular, arrived at Chillicothe
the day preceding our meeting and at once
set to work to counteract the favorable im-
pression the knowledge of it was making
among the citizens. Posters were ordered
and handbills distributed throughout the city
by us. As a distinguished-looking man, the
M. A. L. S. S. G. G., &c., is a success, but
as an advertising medium for the circulation
of valuable information, he is really a won-
derful genius. The only fault I know in that
direction is a lack of discrimination as to what
should and what should not be told. He is
very liable to impart both private and public
news. With him news is news, and must
never spoil for want of telling.

Well, the alphabetical titled official an-
nounced his purpose "to come into the con-
vention and whip us into line;" that he "had
some resolutions we should adopt," and
other equally presumptuous and impertinent
remarks.

"The truest characters of ignorance
Are vanity, and pride, and arrogance;
But here we critics make a doubt
Whether he were more so stout;
The difference was so small his brain
Outweighed his rage but half a grain,
Which made some take him for a fool
That knaves do work with, called a fool."

Shrewdness and tact enabled him to main-
tain successfully the two false impressions
in which his small political capital is invested,
and render him capable of doing, and he does,
more harm to the Republican party than
any ten men in Hamilton county. One of
these is a belief among the whites that he is
a man of influence with us, and the other an
impression that he is all-powerful with them.
The fact that a young man of this commu-
nity has defeated him in every elective race
before the colored constituency of his own
ward and district seems to count for nothing
in measuring political power.

But to return to our ram, lamb, sheep, or
mutton. We did not consider Gen. Grant
personally in our fight, and therefore pocketed
the "splendid Administration" resolu-
tions when they were offered. We gave
Grant the best endorsement in November,
and think that sufficient. The rebuke of
our distinguished news distributor will not
soon be forgotten. His resolutions were
buried so deep by the unanimous vote of
condemnation, that Gabriel might blow his
horn till it burst without effecting a resur-
rection. He was indignant. In fact, mad.
But it was no use. We met for a purpose,
and felt it our duty to effect it. Neverthe-
less, this little episode was energetically
used to place us in an attitude of determined,
unconditional, and irreconcilable hostility to
the Republican party. The leading politi-
cians of the State concede our position to be
a fair one, though using determined efforts
to break our influence. The great question
is whether each colored man they meet is a
"footpad" or a "sorehead." Politics of
official position are not handed out on silver
salvers, but it is important that the latter
shall be spotted.

The party organs endeavor to throw the
whole responsibility upon a single individual,

PETER H. CLARK,

and are using all means to intimidate his
friends or break his power. He, nor they,
realized the great strength and popularity he
has developed. Every day there comes in-
formation of new converts. The young men
are quietly organizing for work, and the
walling and gnashing of teeth, unless the
party do something before election day, will
be fearful. The State ticket, it is under-
stood, we will vote for, but all local candi-
dates may look out for "breakers ahead." At
the inception of our movement, the State
Executive Committee sought colored speak-
ers for the campaign, but they were, most
of them, too busily engaged to devote much
time to the work. Mr. Clark was offered a
commission as "a first class clerk detailed

on special duty in the Pension Office," in
order to give him time for the campaign, and
to stop the clamor we are making, but he
was not to be seduced from his purpose, and
of course rejected it.

A meeting was called here on Monday
evening, 25th, to repudiate and denounce
our convention. Notwithstanding all dilige-
nce had been used to pack it; though we
were refused a voice in our own defense;
admitting, what is not a fact, that there
were less than eight hundred persons pres-
ent, while the chairman ruled according to
the nod of the big piece of animated conceit,
they were still unable to repudiate our resolu-
tions, though the chairman announced a
vote of 80 to 26, which all the city reporters
agreed in calling "the cheekiest decision on
record."

At Chillicothe the same result occurred,
while at Columbus we were indorsed, with
the addition of an expression of confidence
in the party.

Several States have sent us greetings, and
will follow our footsteps. We ask for fair
play, and propose to obtain it inside the
party if we can—outside if we must.

A number of papers claim to be under a
misapprehension as to our intention, and say
that, "after all, the convention didn't mean
anything." We would leave the old ship
with reluctance and sincere grief, but if it
becomes necessary we will take to the life-
boats and let her go down. We desire all
the privileges of American citizenship in the
broadest interpretation of the law, and grati-
tude to neither party nor individuals shall
stand in the way of our seeking them. We
ask no favor—we demand justice.

In view of the conflicting state of affairs,
and the misconception placed upon our ac-
tions, Mr. Clark thought it best to give all
parties with whom he had engagements to
speak an opportunity to cancel them, but so
great is the desire to hear him, and so high
the admiration of the people for the bold,
manly, independent stand he has taken that
he would need to multiply himself many
times to satisfy it. On the 22d instant he
will speak at Dayton from 1 to 2 o'clock,
and at Columbus at 6 or 7 p. m., where it is
proposed to have the largest and grandest
celebration ever held in that section by the
colored people. Already it is admitted that
our movement is resulting in good. Even
those who disagree as to the wisdom of our
policy admit that fact. At Columbus and in
Cincinnati the Chillicothe movement has
effected the nomination of a colored man for
the Legislature.

Meetings are being projected over the
State, and we desire it shall not be our fault
if we are not understood by the people.

In conclusion, I desire your readers shall
not understand me as denouncing all who
oppose us, nor as charging dishonesty in all
of them. There are some real conscientious
opposition to the action of the Chillicothe
resolutions, but our honest opponents are a
minority of the small number who think it
unwise, injudicious, or even premature.

DEPTON.

From Mississippi.

Vicksburg, Sept. 4, 1873.

To the Editors of the New National Era and Citizen:

Doubtless you have heard ere this of the
proceedings of our State convention, which
assembled at Jackson on the 27th, 28th, and
29th ultimo. Politics, and the claims of the
different aspirants, were wrought up to the
highest pitch, but amidst all of them we had
a calm and deliberate convention; and, doubt-
less, all parties are satisfied, with the excep-
tion of Senator Alcorn, who glories in nothing
if he is not allowed to dictate. He can bring
naught against General Ames except that he
was not born in Mississippi.

After organizing, with Hon. H. W. War-
ren as chairman of the convention, we pro-
ceeded to ballot for Governor. Hon. Ad-
elbert Ames and Governor R. C. Powers were
the only contestants for this position. On the
first ballot General Ames received one
hundred and eighty-seven votes, Governor
Powers forty, scattering three. General
Ames was afterwards unanimously nomi-
nated amidst the wildest enthusiasm.

Doubtless you have watched the course of
General Ames in the United States Senate
at Washington as earnestly as we have.
There is no man who has done more for the
Republican party in this State than he; and
there is no one who is so much admired as
he. He took the helm of State soon after
our disastrous defeat in 1868, marshaled our
scattered forces, and marched us on to a
glorious victory in 1869, with forty thousand
majority. And since that time he has been
looked upon as the leader of the Republican
party in the State.

The aspirants for Lieutenant Governor were
Hons. A. K. Davis, H. C. Carter,
Charles Caldwell, F. H. Little, and A. T.
Moran.

There was a warm contest over this posi-
tion, and each aspirant's friends worked like
beavers for their favorite. After two or three
ballotings, the contest narrowed down to
Messrs. Davis and Carter, when Mr. Davis
received a majority, and was, on motion of
Mr. Carter, nominated unanimously.

I gave you a brief sketch of Mr. Davis last
winter in one of my personals, so it will not
be necessary for me to repeat it now. Suffice
it to say that he is a man of acknowledged
ability, of unimpeachable integrity, an expe-
rienced parliamentarian, and will discharge
the duties of Lieutenant Governor with credit
to himself, with credit to our party, and with
credit to the race with which he is identified.

Among the persons who entered the field
for Secretary of State were Hons. James Hill,
James J. Spelman, H. P. Jacobs, J. D. Web-
ster, and Messrs. A. D. Jones, Thomas Rich-
ardson, and T. W. Cardozo. Messrs. Hill,
Webster, and Cardozo led off; but after the
first ballot Messrs. Jones and Cardozo with-
drew in favor of Mr. Hill, which gave him a
majority, and, on motion of Mr. Webster, he
was unanimously nominated.

Mr. Hill is a young man of decided talent;
has served four years in the Legislature; was
acknowledged as one of its leading members,
and made a host of friends. His nomination
gives almost universal satisfaction, and he
will be elected by a large majority.

The most exciting contest during the con-
vention was for that Treasurer. The leading
aspirants were Dr. G. H. Holland and M.

Shaughnessy, Esq., recently United States
Marshal for the southern district of this State.
About six or eight others entered the field,
but obtained comparatively few votes. Dr.
Holland's friends labored zealously for him,
and succeeded in securing a majority of the
votes cast. When the required number was
obtained, a shout went up that made the old
capital ring.

Dr. H. is a Southern Republican, but en-
listed in the Republican party several years
ago, and took an active part as a member of
our constitutional convention in 1867. He is
sound on the goose, and will bring a host
of friends into our party.

One of the most responsible offices in this
State is that of Auditor of Public Accounts.
Two noted and distinguished citizens were
aspirants for this position, and the battle was
looked upon with a great deal of interest.
They were Hon. William H. Gibbs, who has
served four years as State Senator, and dis-
tinguished himself as a leader of the Senate,
and Hon. H. Musgrove, the present incum-
bent. Mr. Gibbs' popularity lies in his fine
qualities as a debater, and his eternal vigi-
lance and watchfulness over everything
which has at stake the interests of the party.
Mr. Musgrove's popularity lies in the fact of
his being the best State officer we have, and
his great financial ability. He has watched
over the financial interests of the State as a
father watches the course of his son, and
with not a particle less interest. Mr. Gibbs
obtained just the exact majority, with not a
vote to spare, which gave him as much satis-
faction, doubtless, as though he had received
many votes more than was required.

The next contest was over the position of
Attorney General. And this, too, was a
warm battle. The principal aspirants were
Hon. George E. Harris, ex-member of Con-
gress, and the present incumbent, Hon. J. S.
Morris. Both of these gentlemen had friends
in the convention who were bound to them
by the strongest ties, and they worked for
their man in a manner which challenged ad-
miration. Colonel Harris is a dignified, high-
toned gentleman, a Southern Republican,
whose connection with our party brings a
host of others. He is an able lawyer, and
will fill the position of Attorney General for
which he was nominated with great credit to
our party.

Judge Morris is looked upon as one of the
leading members of the bar in the State—
brilliant, shrewd, and sound—he would re-
flect credit upon any position in which he is
placed. He is a perfect match for Alcorn on
the stump, and if placed on his tracks he will
send "windy Jim" flying back to "sweet
Coahoma, by the river side," where he can
spend the fall months "under the classic
shades of the cotton-wood tree in sweet and
placid reflection" on the nomination and
election of General Ames.

The next contest was for Superintendent
of Public Instruction.

This position is also looked upon as one of
the most important if not the most important
in the State. Our school system has not
been as good as it ought to be, but the pre-
sent incumbent has done yeoman's service in
the cause; and with the forces he had had
done as well as could be expected. Three
white and three colored candidates entered
the field for this position, viz., Hons. James
H. Pile, H. P. Pease, Rev. A. C. McDonald,
and Messrs. W. H. Turnip, Julius Luskman,
and T. W. Cardozo. After the first ballot
all withdrew in favor of Mr. T. W. Cardozo,
and, on motion of Colonel Warner, he was
nominated by acclamation.

Modesty forbids me from writing at length
in reference to this gentleman, as I am one
of his nearest relatives. But the manner in
which he was nominated shows that he was
the choice of the people; and his adminis-
tration of school matters for the next four years
will show whether the nomination was a good
one or not.

The ticket is made up of four white and
three colored men. Two of the whites—the
Governor and the Auditor—are Northern
men, and two—the Treasurer and Attorney
General—are Southern men; and the Lieuten-
ant Governor, Secretary of State, and Su-
perintendent of Public Instruction are colored
men. We also have a colored man for Com-
missioner of Immigration, Hon. Richard
Griggs.

The ticket is made up of men who repre-
sent different sections of the State, and we
expect to roll up a large majority for it on
the 14th day of November next. CIVES.

From Virginia.

NORFOLK, VA., Sept. 5, 1873.

To the Editors of the New National Era and Citizen:

The battle has begun in earnest in and
around "The City by the Sea." Not being
satisfied with their defeat at Warrenton, the
Conservatives persuaded a joint discussion
at Princess Anne Court-house on Monday
the 1st instant. The Republicans were well
represented by Hon. C. P. Ramsdell, candi-
date for Lieutenant Governor; Colonel J.
W. Jenkins, of Richmond, who discussed the
issues now before the people, with Hon.
John Goode, Jr., and Colonel Starke on the
Democratic side. The meeting was well
attended. I was not there, but from ac-
count and appearances the rabble Demo-
cracy were whipped out on Tuesday evening.
The Republicans had the largest gathering
of white men at the court-house that has
assembled there since Secretary Robeson
and Prof. Langston spoke there and were
nobbed. The Republican candidate for Gov-
ernor, R. W. Hughes, C. P. Ramsdell, and
Hon. James H. Platt, Jr., M. C., were the
speakers. Mr. Hughes, in answer to the
question put to him by the morning papers,
said he was opposed to mixed schools; be-
lieved it destructive to the free-school sys-
tem. At this juncture of his speech I was
reminded of the colored people in Chowan
county, North Carolina, who, some years
before the war, voted, but voted an amend-
ment to the constitution that prohibited
them from voting thereafter. Hon. Ram-
sdell and L. H. Chandler dealt such home
blows to the Democrats that they staggered.
George D. Parker, of Jijij, is running for
Commonwealth's Attorney of Norfolk county.
This gentleman refused to support Greeley
because he was a Radical, and voted for
O'Connor. He is now a Radical himself. (?)
Edward Spaulding, Esq., a young and prom-
ising lawyer, and formerly a resident of

Washington, is also aspiring for the same
position, and no doubt will get the nomi-
nation if the majority vote is counted. We
have made no nominations yet for the Leg-
islature. Colonel J. T. Wilson is spoken of
for the Senate.

The school question seems to be exciting
considerable feeling among the colored
voters, who are not demanding mixed schools,
nor any other kind. No representative col-
ored men have yet spoken for or against
mixed schools. Those whom I have con-
sulted with upon the subject regret very
much that the question should come up in
this campaign. A meeting of the prominent
colored men is on foot for next Monday
night. Probably the subject will then be
discussed. If the men who are receiving
money vote the Republican ticket, we will
carry Norfolk. I mean the white men who
work in the navy yard.

You are mistaken about the defeat of the
party in 1869; also about Dr. Harris in your
reply to "Toussaint." Dr. Harris was not
the negro's nominee; nor he was not the
cause of the party's defeat. Remember
17,000 negro votes were counted for Walker,
through the treachery of white Republicans,
who enjoyed the negro's confidence, and
who desired to defeat Gen. Wells.

A convention of the colored people of the
State is talked of for the 1st of January, 1874.
Virginia, I believe, is the only State where
a colored State convention has not been held
since 1865. The interest of the people de-
mands that something should be done. By
uniting, no doubt something will be done.
I hope to hear from our leading colored men
throughout the State upon this question.

Politics on the peninsula are badly mixed.
Great dissatisfaction exists among the Repub-
licans on account of the nominations made
there. I fear that the Conservatives will
slip in. Calvin D. Johnson, Esq., a former
law student of Howard, has been nominated
for Commonwealth's Attorney in Elizabeth
City county. The rebel press is terrified at
it. I am proud to say that friend Johnson is
all right. ESKIAN.

From Michigan.

DETROIT, MICH., Sept. 4, 1873.

To the Editors of the New National Era and Citizen:

While in the city of Detroit, in the "Wal-
verine" State, many things combine to make
one's stay interesting. Not only is this city
beautiful by reason of its incomparable river,
whose waters, clear and blue, gladden the
heart to look upon, but it is a model city in
other respects. Its houses of business com-
pare most favorably with the superlative
structures of New York or Philadelphia, and
its residences are so many grand pictures.
It is busy and active, and the inhabitants are
singularly industrious. Few beggars appear
on the street, but instead, during business
hours, there is a